



# Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

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## 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

On a biennial basis, the Carroll County Commissioners and the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council recognize the people and businesses in our community who have made a difference in instituting or forwarding positive environmental thought and action. Recognition this year was given through the Environmental Awareness Awards in the following categories: Individual, Institution, Student, Agriculture, and Business.

### THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD

#### **Mary Hoy**

Mary Hoy has brought passion for environmental awareness to Carroll County Public Schools for over 15 years. Through her work at Hashawha Outdoor School, she developed the Environmental Issue Investigation model for engaging students in real-world learning. Her influence extends beyond students in her work with the Wild School Grounds Workshop, where she provides professional development to teachers. Mary helped incorporate to the science curriculum opportunities for applying what students have learned through actual projects. She was instrumental in integrating birds and their habitat as part of the fifth grade science curriculum focusing on adaptations, including creating bird gardens at all 23 elementary schools. Mary provided hands-on training for developing rain gardens at the elementary schools as part of the water quality focus of the fourth grade curriculum. Mary's knowledge of Monarch butterflies was instrumental in building Monarch nurseries into the Kindergarten science curriculum, which explores life cycles. A more recent endeavor has included facilitation of school students' participating in reforestation projects, such as projects on farms near Cherry Branch and the Copps Branch, as well as tree planting projects at three elementary schools. Mary's efforts have taken a two dimensional curriculum and brought it to life for the students.

### THE INSTITUTION AWARD

#### **Venturing Crew 202**

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing is meant to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing does all this in an exciting way not often seen in other clubs or programs currently in existence. Members participate in the Envirothon, conduct sustainability presentations, provide displays at workshops, volunteer with Maryland Department of Natural

Resources, conduct habitat surveys and restoration, and plant trees, to name a few of their activities. In 2013, the group participated in an Environmental Education Day at the Warfield Complex, including the planting over 3,100 trees. The group also participates in the Highlands Environmental Leadership Program and Awakening the Dreamer Symposium, both geared toward sparking knowledge and action for environmental protection.

## **THE STUDENT AWARD**

### **Earth Kids Club**

The Earth Kids Club meets monthly at Charlotte's Quest Nature Center in Manchester. The kids initiate environmental improvement projects, which are chosen and voted on by the students as a team. They collect the materials, provide the labor, and do research as needed. Last year, they built new bluebird boxes for the bluebird trail and removed invasive plants from the stream and pond areas. They continue to monitor past projects and are working on a rain garden by the Nature Center's new pavilion.

### **Avery Renshaw**

Avery initiated a public education campaign to raise awareness for how easy composting is and its benefits. She created informational materials and prepared a school showcase, library display, local and school newspaper articles, and information for BeLocal.com, a community eco-oriented website. Her project included developing an interactive display game for Piney Run Nature Center. Avery also developed a PowerPoint that was shared with other environmental clubs and nearby schools. She followed up with a post-project survey to identify the impact of her efforts.

### **Madison Warfield**

Madison has dedicated her time to Bear Branch Nature Center as a center aid for over three years. She participated in Project Clean Stream, volunteered as a Camp Counselor for Hashawha Outdoor School, and interned at Bear Branch and Hashawha Outdoor School. As a member of Venturing Crew 202, she participated in the Tree Planting and Environmental Education Day at Warfield Complex, and was nominated as Crew President; was youth lead for the Highlands Environmental Leadership Program; and competed in the Crew's Envirothon. Beyond Carroll County, she has participated in pelican banding, saw whet owl banding, and storm restoration on Assateague Island. Madison also participated on a panel of experts at the Maryland Environmental Literacy Program at UMBC.

## **THE AGRICULTURE AWARD**

### **Donald Maring**

Mr. Maring was able to reduce his carbon footprint for his farming operation. He generates almost 100 percent of his electricity usage for his grain dryers and lights in his barn through the installation of a 48 kilowatt solar facility on the roof of his barn. The fans in grain dryers take a

tremendous amount of energy over a long period of time. Mr. Maring's solar generation reduces the need for additional fossil fuels and nuclear generation to supply the grid.

## **THE BUSINESS AWARD**

### **No Worries IT**

This company provides computer services to small businesses in Carroll County and surrounding area. As an alternative to sending old, discarded computers and related devices to the landfill, the company started sanitizing the data from the hard drives and transporting them to a recycling center for a cash rebate. They then match the rebate and donate the amount to a local charity. Since its inception in 2011, No Worries IT has become a collection center and also has been joined by other businesses in the community as partners.

## **HONORABLE MENTION**

The Environmental Advisory Council values the efforts all of those who were nominated and recognizes their significant contribution to environmental protection and stewardship. This year, the Environmental Advisory Council also would like to recognize the other nominees who received at least one vote with an Honorable Mention.

### **Ruth Chamelin – Agriculture Category**

Ms. Chamelin, a former dairy farmer who teaches Animal Care and Veterinary Science classes at Westminster High School, used a grant from Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future to build a calf hutch and fencing at the school. Ms. Chamelin incorporated live animals to teach about sustainable agriculture and its relationship to where the food on our tables comes from. The students in her class raised live animals, processed them, and worked in collaboration with the foods classes to cook and eat an animal they raised.

### **Brick Ridge Restaurant – Business Category**

The Brick Ridge Restaurant has engaged multiple practices to reduce consumer waste and energy consumption. It was one of the first commercial properties to voluntarily recycle all glass, plastic, metal, and cardboard. They actively compost food waste from the operation. In addition, the restaurant has a two kilowatt wind turbine, uses energy efficient light bulbs when possible, and provides biodegradable carryout containers. A state-of-the-art CO2 compressor was installed to heat and cool water. This system consumes substantially less energy than conventional systems.